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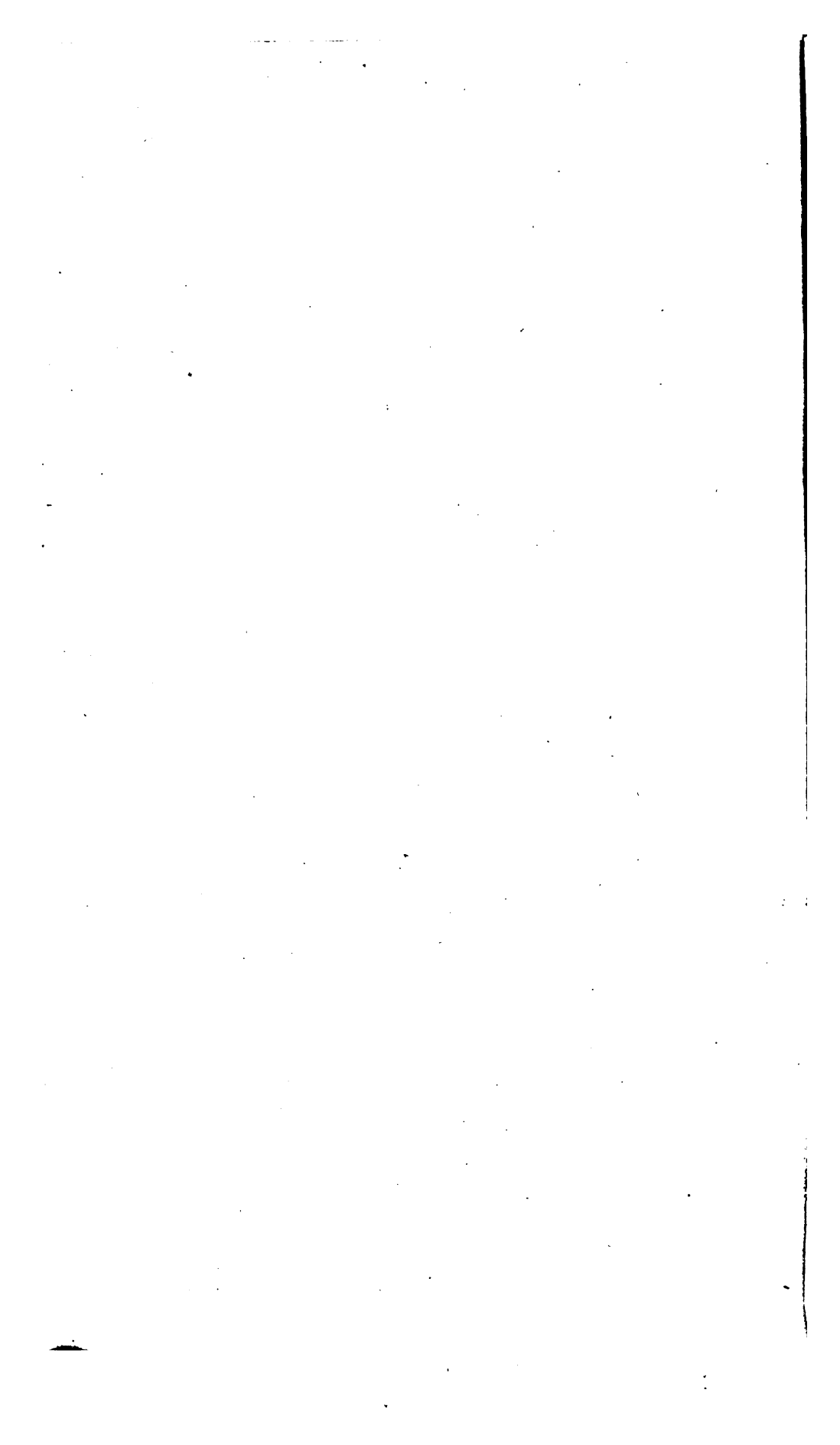
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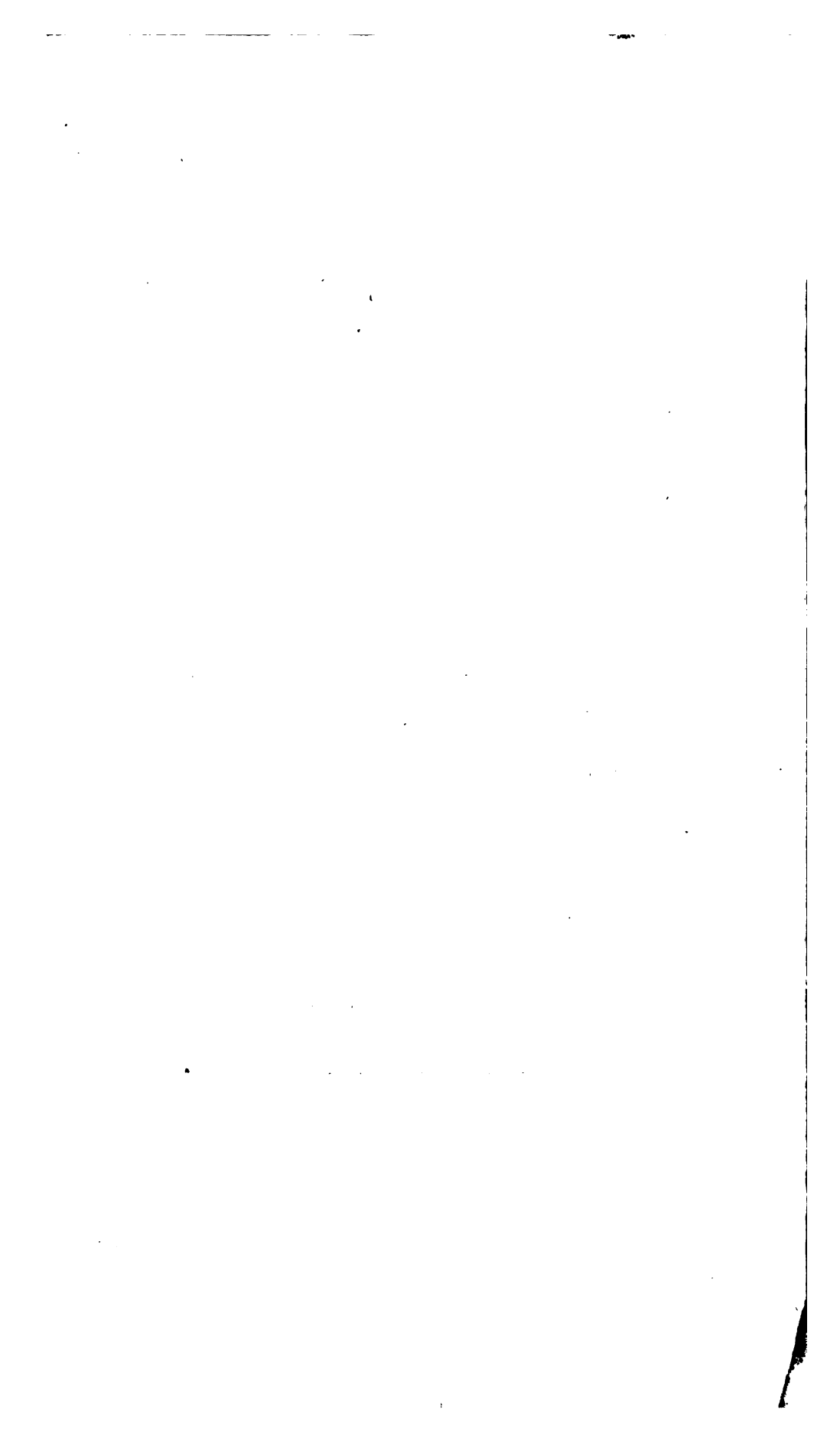
St Domingo

82

A
GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
ST. DOMINGO, CUBA,
AND
NICARAGUA,
WITH
REMARKS ON THE PAST AND PRESENT POLICY OF GREAT BRITAIN,
AFFECTING THOSE COUNTRIES.

1511

1575-15



©

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GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

ST. DOMINGO, CUBA,

AND

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REMARKS ON THE PAST AND PRESENT POLICY OF GREAT BRITAIN,
AFFECTING THOSE COUNTRIES.

"The winds and seas are Britain's wide domain
And not a sail but by permission spreads."—

BY A TRAVELLER.

♣
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PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS.

THE object of this sketch is to illustrate the moral condition of a region which has hitherto been regarded with but little interest except on the score of trade, and to point out some of the obstacles which have been placed in the way of its advancement.

These lands of the "Cypress and Myrtle," have, by their luxurious productions, ministered largely to the enjoyment of the people of other countries, and almost the only plant of that clime which has been viewed with total indifference by enlightened and polished nations seems to have been MAN.

If these few pages should inspire a single operative kindly feeling towards the race alluded to, or tend in any degree to the correction of the abuses which have been so long practised, the writer's aim will be accomplished.

H A Y T I .

THE island of Hayti was discovered by Columbus in 1492. It is situated between 17° and 20° north latitude, and 68° and 75° west longitude. It is 360 miles in length, from east to west, varying in breadth from 60 to 120 miles. Its circumference, measured by an even line, excluding its bays, is 1000 miles. This island, so important for its situation and great natural advantages, lies 45 miles east of Cuba, and 60 miles from Porto Rico, and can be seen from either in clear weather. It is four times as large as Jamaica, and about equal in extent to Ireland. Jamaica lies westward about 40 leagues, and the Bahamas north about two days sail, and southward is the great continent of South America. Columbus gave it the name of Hispaniola, and that of San Domingo, (the Spanish for Sunday) to a city established on the south side in 1494, but in process of time the whole island was called by the latter name. It afterwards re-assumed its original name of Hayti, and is now divided into two distinct territories. The

Haytien Republic possesses about one-third of the island—that part which the Spaniards had ceded to the French, and which subsequently fell into the hands of the black population. The Dominican Republic possesses two-thirds on the eastern side of the island. Its inhabitants are the descendants of the natives Columbus discovered, and of the Spaniards that settled there.

This island is one of the richest in tropical products. The western side belonging to the Haytiens, is remarkable for its fertility ; and though the eastern side is by no means equal to the western, yet it contains certain districts which alone are capable of producing more sugar and other valuable products than all the British West Indian Islands together. The country is continually refreshed by breezes and rains, and its salubrity seems to increase yearly. There are three principal chains of mountains, the whole of which are fertile and susceptible of cultivation even to their summits. Their highest elevation is about 6000 feet above the level of the sea. These are covered with forests of mahogany, Brazil-wood, palms, elms, oaks, pines, iron-wood, cedar, ebony. The island has its mines of gold, some of which must even lie on the surface, as much of the dust rolls with the sand of the Yago river, and is often gathered by the peasantry, at certain seasons of the year. There are also mines of silver, copper, iron, and lead. Its plains nourish vast herds of cattle, equal in every respect to those of the continent, and sufficient in num-

ber to supply all the West Indies. The temperature from the tops of the mountains to the sea-side, varies from 50° to 85°. It would be difficult for a person unacquainted with mountain scenery in the tropics, to form an idea of the grandeur and loveliness of nature as exhibited in these wonderful hills. Jamaica and Martinique have scenes of surpassing beauty, but are as inferior to Hayti, as a lake compared to the ocean in extent. In Hayti the soil is fertile in the extreme—there are fields of canes which were planted in the times of the French possession, which have yielded a yearly crop ever since, and are yet in cultivation. The French with great truthfulness, designated this island as the Queen of the Antilles.

Turn we now from the pleasant contemplation of the works of God to a consideration of some of the baleful influences which have plunged these children of nature into a labyrinth from which it is not easy for soul or body to escape, into a condition worse than that of slavery.

Hayti about a half a century ago was in a state of rebellion against France, at the same time that the latter was entangled in the European war. The British were then at war with France, and were one of her most hostile neighbors, as they not only engaged wherever they could meet the French at home, but aimed also at their colonies. Hayti was one of the most prosperous and richest spots of the new world, and at the opening of the war attracted the attention of the British government. They hastened to help

the Blacks, with no other motive than that of taking possession of a French territory, the most beautiful spot of creation, and to effect as much destruction as possible, wherever they could come in contact with French interest. They concealed from the Blacks the real motive of their interference, and induced a belief in their minds that England was their friend and wished to assist them. They took possession of several towns, built forts and began to settle as if at home. The Blacks did not at first observe that this intrusion was preparing a new struggle for them, but soon after were obliged to turn their arms against their early professed friends, and succeeded in driving them out. The policy of the British was hypocritically quiescent, and though driven out, they continued to favor the Blacks, increasing their means of defence and preventing thereby future submission to France.

At this period Napoleon sent an army to Hayti of about 40,000 men, the command of which was trusted to his brother-in-law who had received from him secret instructions. It is not to be supposed that it was with the view only of reconquering St. Domingo, but also to render harmless these troops who were the flower of France, and devoted to the interest of General Moreau his rival. He had orders to take possession of the island and make it the home of the army. Had these officers been experienced or well acquainted with the state of things in the island, had they not intended to renew the slave system, when emancipation had been proclaimed by France itself, had they kept them-

selves in the sea-ports, instead of uselessly worrying the poor soldiers in the mountains they would have secured the possession of it to this day, though the Haytiens at that time could set on foot 150,000 men bearing arms. Fevers induced by excitement and great privations destroyed most of the French army. From 40,000 men it had been reduced to 1200, who held in possession the town of Cape Haytien, then besieged by 15,000 men under the black General Des-saline. An English squadron having blockaded the port, supplies of provision were cut off both by sea and by land. Unable to obtain aid of any kind, General Rochambeau capitulated to the English squadron on condition that officers and soldiers, though considered as prisoners should be exchanged on their arrival in Europe for English prisoners. Such was the issue of that expedition.

This unexpected assistance increased the amicable feelings of the Blacks toward the British and they truly believed the motive for assisting them was disinterested, which *assistance* was indeed continued to Christophe, who was a native of St. Christopher's, and came to Hayti before the rebellion. Meantime Des-saline the Black emperor was shot and Gen. Christophe elected President by the Assembly of Port au Prince. He refused this election, but proclaimed himself king, under the title of Henry 1st. Notwithstanding the treaty of 1815 by which Hayti was guaranteed to the French nation and the Spanish part to Spain, the British continued their protection to King Christophe who

was at all times disposed to receive his much beloved friends and their vessels on most favorable terms. This friendly preference on one side and indirect protection on the other were carried to the extreme,—Schools even, were established to teach the English language. The deputy French ambassador, Medina, in defiance of the law of humanity as acknowledged among the most savage barbarians was put to death. An American captain was also hung under the custom house of Cape Henry, upon very questionable ground. So well had the King been tutored in his duty and taught that he might bully and defy every one, so long as England was with him.

During the same period, Petion, a highly educated Mulatto, and a patriotic chief, governed the other part of the island, he having been made President in the place of Christophe who had refused the republican Presidential chair to assume a self-made throne, that he might be admitted to the brotherhood of Kings. Petion's policy was a just one. He deemed friendly connections with all nations necessary to the prosperity of his country, at the same time refusing all treaties and protection, that might endanger its prosperity or the independence of its nationality. He had to sustain a civil war against Christophe the king, which he carried on with republican and liberal principles, and though he was obliged to fight, not only Christophe and his army, but also against the indirect assistance of Christophe's *good friends*, the English, his republic survived. He had received the French Deputy

sent to him, the colleague of Medina, who was basely murdered by Christophe, with the considerations due to his mission. He died some time after, leaving encouragement to the hopes of a future treaty with France.

Boyer succeeded him in 1818. He was an intelligent man and capable at that time to take the lead. He continued to hold the republican principles against Christophe, the king, who could no longer govern his people and was dethroned by his own followers, who immediately after hailed the Republic with joy, while the peasantry who had been under the rule of the fallen King, greeted Boyer as their liberator and their father. The British losing their ground by the death of Christophe had no further opportunity for openly exercising any direct influence, but were treated on terms of equality with all other nations. Thus they showed a policy inconsistent with truth,—having signed a treaty restoring the Island of St. Domingo to France on one side, and on the other giving direct assistance to the Black King against the French up to his death in 1820. This cannot be considered otherwise than dishonorable, as that island was a French colony till 1825, when Charles X, King of France acknowledged its independence, under a treaty stipulating an indemnity in favor of the former landholders.

Boyer succeeded in uniting the whole island under one government. The Spaniards, the descendants of the friends of Columbus, and of the natives he found in the island, proclaimed emancipation and their inde-

pendence of Spain and willingly joined the Haytien government, under their then existing institutions. Spain claimed an indemnity from Boyer who refused it on the ground that if Spain possessed the ability to reconquer the Spanish territory and its inhabitants, that she had the full right, but that he could not oppose an annexation, solicited by the natives themselves. No people ever had reason to welcome peace more joyfully than the Haytiens, for they had been suffering for 30 years, a desolating war, which had reduced the population to one-third of its former number. Under the French the population was about 600,000; now, it is not over 200,000,—The Dominicans number 100,000. The Haytiens are scarcely able to set on foot 10,000 men, and the Dominicans cannot raise more than 8,000.

Boyer fully capable of assuming the power in 1818, and of carrying it on under its established principles, concluded a treaty with France, and obtained by a stipulated indemnity, the independence of the Republic. From that day he lost his popularity—he was no longer the man for the new state of things. Some, through ignorance, blamed him for consenting to the indemnity, considering that they had already paid full price for their independence, not perceiving that, by this course, he at once established the country on a solid basis. The President, on his side, still adhered to his former policy, instead of adopting one grounded upon religious principles and public virtue, which

might have quieted the many difficulties he had yet to contend with, though outwardly at peace.

The new treaty had much annoyed the British, as under its provision, the French enjoyed their full rights in the country. The people, however, were greatly in need of peace and liberty, particularly in the north where they had been oppressed by the King, worse even than in the past time of their slavery. They remained quiet and for twenty years afforded no hold in the North for foreign intrigue, grown yet more active, while partially concealed by liberty of action. In the South, where the Republic had extended its policy to the toleration of a licentious freedom, in order to lessen the monarchical power, demoralization and indolence took the place of their military courage, thus leaving them open to foreign intrusion.

In the meantime, the British had emancipated the Africans in her colonies—first in action she claimed all the sympathy and gratitude of the African race, concealing from them that her sister nations had also signed the treaty of Emancipation, though they had not the advantage of accumulated gold in their coffers, or any means of giving immediate compensation to the owners of slaves. For as slavery had been a curse transmitted from the ignorance of past ages, handed down from father to son, under the sanction and protection of Government, and it being generally admitted that Governments as well as individuals are obliged by principle and equity, to give compensation for injury committed, they could not abandon to distress and

ruin those who were relying on the protection of their own laws, but recognized their obligation to indemnify the owners of the emancipated slaves. This principle of indemnification is the great obstacle in the way of emancipation. The taxation consequent upon the British Emancipation, was cheerfully met by the people of the United Kingdom, and to *them* is a large share of gratitude due, but the policy of *Government* was concealed from all. A naval force was sent to the coast of Africa, whose province it seems to have been to allow thousands and thousands of Africans to be shipped on board of slavers, crowded together like sheep, only that they might be recaptured by vessels of the squadron, the British Government paying to the navy a premium for every one so recaptured. Thus were these unfortunate beings exposed to the danger of being drowned by whole cargoes, or of losing their lives in the action of recapturing, for the Slavers were desperate men, who preferring to be shot rather than to be hung, often engaged in sanguinary battles, without the slightest regard for the lives of their innocent victims. Thus the immense capital expended by the British Government was of little or no benefit to the cause of liberty, for though Emancipation had been proclaimed, they still designed to keep the Africans in subjection to their own interests. They proposed to Boyer to bring to Hayti some of their recaptured cargoes of human flesh under conditions that were not made known. Boyer refused, for he could not misapply the revenue of the Republic,

already pledged to pay France the indemnity that secured the independence of the country, and because that at that time his expenses were immense in consequence of the armies in the North and South, neither of which he dared disband as he depended on one to render the other powerless. He could not then spare the money necessary for the education of men in a wild and primitive state, and wished to save his country from being overwhelmed with a flood of ignorance. His refusal prevented Hayti from participating in the shameful system. The captured Africans have been sent ever since to the British islands, and bound out to planters under the name of apprentices. This certainly could not have been done either in Hayti or in Liberia.

All classes of people had at this time become dissatisfied with the compromising policy of Boyer, perceiving that it kept the country in a state of entire stagnation and rendered its course retrograde. As the views and principles of other governments changed, his needed to be altered, that the Haytiens might also receive the impulse that should keep them in the wake of other nations. Public schools were wanted, a renovation of moral and religious principles were indispensable, for no republic can long exist without true hearted men devoted to the execution of its laws, and to the prosperity of its institutions.

The revolution of 1843 was long in embryo among the politicians and the conductors of the press. Young men whose education had been confined to elementary

instruction, to the exclusion of more enlarged and loftier views, made a vehement opposition, which of course created party spirit, and made an opening for foreign intrusion. The revolution begun at Aux Cayes under the direction of individuals hitherto unknown to the people, with no other merit on the part of the leaders than that which belongs to the attribute of brutes—animal courage. They started under a manifesto written by some of their followers, containing principles, which if carried into practice, would have honored the country. This manifesto was secretly spread over the island, and adopted by the whole population. Boyer on this occasion proved that either age, fortune, or a secluded life had placed him out of the political sphere of the times. Had he been liberal, and willing to change his system of government for a better one, he could have checked that revolution by an appeal to the people, for they had no ill feeling towards him personally, but merely an hostility to his monotonous and quiet policy. Had he appealed, many of the people in the South, the whole North, the Dominicans and the Haytiens would have joined his standard ; he might have checked the progress of the revolution and placed the country in a state of advancement, securing thereby its permanent peace as well as his own safety, but he preferred to persevere in obstinacy. Instead of sustaining his government under the modifications called for, at Port au Prince, he injured his country by an untimely abdication, abandoning it at the very crisis when he was

needed, as the man who had received for twenty-five years the peaceful obedience of the people, to one whom he well knew possessed neither the ability to govern, nor the confidence of the nation.

The leaders in that revolution betrayed their followers, by their immorality and their incapacity,—they had not learned the first rudiments in the knowledge of self-government.

Guerrier, a black man, assumed the power. He was the oldest General then living,—and a man who had displayed much dignity and independence of character under the Government of Christophe, though at the same time one of his most faithful soldiers. His high qualities made him courteous to all, just and equitable in every act. He had fought many battles in the former war, and had learned from experience to trust no foreign counsel, for he had been possessed of many opportunities for observation while holding a station of influence under Christophe, and had well improved them. His first public act was an attempt to destroy party spirit and division of color. He opposed all foreign interference, either direct or indirect, of what he termed “snake-like policy.” He refused to war against the Dominicans, being under the conviction that brotherly feelings would sooner unite them, and considering that they had a natural right to their native land, he was on the eve of recognizing their independence as another race of men, inoffensive to the Republic. Indeed so far was he from encouraging the war of caste that he often exhorted the blacks to unite

with the mulattoes, entreating them to regard each other, as fathers, brothers, and children of one family. He had a natural horror of bloodshed, and refused ever to sign the death-warrant of any. He was old, and died too soon for the good of his country.

A little before his death, he predicted that evil would come from foreign influence consequent upon the ignorance of his countrymen.

General Pierrot succeeded him.

He was a good-natured, well-disposed man, and liberal in the extreme.

On his first arrival at the Capital he publicly declared his wish that no differences on account of color should be recognized, but that each citizen should receive favor and protection at the hands of the Government, in proportion to his love of order, his neighbors, and his country.

Personally he used every effort to allay the prejudices of caste. Had he possessed the experience of his predecessor, he might have done well, but Guerrier had moved in an elevated sphere, while Pierrot had passed most of his time amongst soldiers. A conspiracy broke out which he could have quelled, by shedding much blood, but being averse to this, he refused and resigned his office.

This conspiracy originated at a meeting of half a dozen persons, black, colored, and white. Were we inclined to picture the individuals belonging to the last race, much might be said. Pierrot was deposed; Riche came into power. He had heretofore always

proved faithful and obedient to his superiors, and throughout the rebellion he acted under an influence, that if exposed, would throw much light upon the political state of the country. His administration was a bloody one. Though fond of foreigners and inclined to further their designs, he was also extremely vain, and received the intimations of their wishes, only in the most indirect manner. He subjected himself to more fatigue than age would allow him to bear ; he died in 1847.

The Senate assembled to elect a President. Two candidates obtaining an equal number of votes, a third competitor was brought forward—the present chief Soulouque. He was chosen by one party for an instrument suited to their end, and by the other as a man against whom there was no ill-will, and on whose peaceable disposition they might safely rely. His election was hailed with general satisfaction. Soon after this, parties were formed, and every means employed to set the blacks and mulattoes at war with each other. Petitions were made, clubs were instituted, envy was at work, black men in public life were imbued with absurd prejudices, resolutions were passed to destroy the mulattoes. Soulouque did not at first favor these proceedings, but was finally overruled by men before whose eyes were flitting a crown and an empire, and the trappings of nobility.

To all these occurrences, foreigners were neither uninterested or inactive spectators. At about this crisis, a stranger intruded upon Soulouque, and begged

an interview. On the day appointed he was admitted in private, and addressed him thus : " Behold the portrait of Napoleon,—you have his head and bust—without a doubt you possess his genius also. You may become the Napoleon of the blacks and the Emperor of the Antilles. Here is the chart of the West Indies, the island of Porto Rico sixty miles, Cuba forty miles distant—both within one day's sail from you. You can liberate them and annex all the West Indies to your Empire. The British will undoubtedly cede over to you their islands under certain conditions, and the French, Dutch and Danish islands will follow the torrent, for they are spots containing the elements of combustion within themselves." Soulouque smiled contemptuously at this and afterwards reported it, so wicked did he then consider the means proposed, having no confidence in the foreigner, who shrouded himself from the public eye, and remained unknown.

The means suggested by this satellite of a remote power were, a war of caste, the destruction of all the mulattoes, and the expulsion of foreigners by monopolizing the business in the hands of Government, that it might transmit it to a few. The entire destruction of the Dominicans was represented as of imperious necessity, inasmuch as they stood in the way of the general establishment of a black Government under a foreign protectorate. Soulouque, as we have said, deprecated this policy, and clung to the dictates of his sense of justice, but he was at length overpersuaded by the machiavellian influence of cruel men. Among

those who exercised this influence were a few whites, the repudiated men of other countries—aiders and abettors in a bad cause, ready to vanish if they did not succeed. Some of them were acting under the inducement of mercenary motives, hoping to monopolize in some degree a profitable trade;—others again were influenced by political feelings. There were some there too bearing a priestly character, and possessing a perfect knowledge of the darkness and ignorance of the blacks, who instead of endeavoring to remove, were base enough to presume upon it, and to make the Church and the influence attaching to themselves as ministers of religion, the instruments of carrying out their own designs. These were Jesuits, who having been driven from their own churches in Europe, had come some time before to the island in quest of fortune. Designing and artful, they had quietly spread their nets for power and plunder, and now used unscrupulously every means within their grasp, political opinions, superstition, war, to effect their wretched end. One of them, well known for his immorality and baseness, took the lead in a club, through the members of which he circulated false documents stating that it was the wish of the people that Soulouque should be made Emperor. Soon after (though a Frenchman) he forwarded a petition asking *British protection*.

Since then it is in evidence that two British officers occupying high stations in the island, while abroad condemned the course taken by Soulouque as cruel and ruinous to his country, and expressed hopes that

the British flag would yet float in Hayti. But one of them at the same time acknowledged that he had promised his influence, (which he considered very large) to promote the election of the Emperor provided he could be made a Duke, forgetting that it was basely inconsistent for him to condemn Soulouque as a barbarian, and yet to be desirous of composing one of this distinguished nobility. Such a man we do not believe Englishmen are prepared to acknowledge, accident must have placed him in his position.

C U B A .

THE island of Cuba, the capital of which is Havana, is situated between 74° and 85° west longitude, and 19° and 23° north latitude. The form of the island is extremely irregular, resembling the shape of a long narrow crescent. It is the most westerly of the West India Islands, and has decidedly a larger extent of territory than any of them. Lying in the Gulf of Mexico, it leaves two spacious passages, one of which, between the most northerly part of the island and the southern point of Florida, is ninety miles wide; and the other, between the southern point of Cuba and the northern point of Yucatan, is one hundred and twenty miles wide. The distance from Havana to Cat Island, at the mouth of the Mississippi, is six hundred and sixty miles.

The entrance to the port of Havana is through a channel three-quarters of a mile long, but so narrow that only a single vessel can enter at once. It is fortified through the whole distance with platforms, breastworks and artillery. The mouth of this channel is se-

cured by two strong castles. The one on the eastern side, called the Moro Castle, is built in the form of a triangle, fortified with bastions and mounted with forty pieces of cannon nearly on a level with the sea. On the opposite side of the channel is another strong fort called the Puntal, connected with the town on the north. The city is situated on the western side of the harbor, and is surrounded by ramparts, bastions, and ditches. Besides these fortifications it is surrounded by battlements, all of them furnished with a great abundance of artillery. The square citadel, Elfuerte, stands at the north east corner of the town; this has also heavy cannon, and here the treasures of the Government are deposited.

The soil is fertile, and nature seems especially to have fitted it in some parts for the growth of the best tobacco, the use of which is considered by the Spaniards one of the greatest luxuries. But it does not equal in fertility the soil of Hayti,—she must ever retain her pre-eminence on that score. The island has also its mines and wealth of all kinds. It yields an immense amount of produce for commerce, and has, from its situation, command of both the north and south channels of the Gulf of Mexico. The population is about 900,000.

It appears from Jamaica newspapers, and also from those of other British islands, that petitions have been drawn up in public meetings at Havana and carried about the streets to obtain signatures, asking from Parliament the enforcement of the conditions of the

treaty relating to emancipation. But they do not suggest the mode by which the indemnity due to owners of slaves is to be provided for, or any means to secure the well being of the slaves themselves; whether they are to be left free as if in Africa that they may war amongst themselves as they are doing in Hayti, or destroy the whites and mulattoes and place the whole island under the black Emperor Soulouque. By this latter course Spain would be robbed of her island, and Soulouque, under British protection, would possess the only three outlets of the Gulf of Mexico.

N I C A R A G U A .

THE territory of the Republic of Nicaragua extends from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean. It was formerly a part of the Republic of Guatemala in Central America. The northeast coast was discovered by Columbus in 1502, and the greater part of it was conquered by the Spaniards in 1524.

Nicaragua takes its name from a powerful Cacique, who was one of the first among the natives to enter into friendly relations with the Spaniards, and to embrace their religion. Central America became independent in 1821, and was subsequently incorporated with Mexico, but on the fall of Iturbide it disconnected itself from the Mexican Republic, and was formed into a separate confederation in 1823. Since the declaration of independence the country has been disturbed by frequent civil wars, but these have now subsided.

A noble lake in the interior adds greatly to the beauty of the country. This lake, or rather inland sea, is one hundred and twenty miles in length, and

forty-five in breadth at its widest parts. It extends to within twenty miles of the Pacific. On this inland sea the Spaniards formerly kept a brig of war of fourteen guns. There is undoubtedly a sufficient depth of water there for the largest ships.

The staple exports of Central America are gold and silver, indigo, cochineal, sarsaparilla, hides, Brazil-wood, logwood, and mahogany. No other section in this region has so great an abundance of valuable exports. The population of the confederation is little short of 2,000,000, and comprises but few of the negro race.

A canal communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the lake is obviously one of the most important projects connected with the country in a commercial point of view.

Mr. Robinson, an American writer, states the facilities for its accomplishment as follows :

“Between the lake and the Pacific the ground is a dead level. In the Pacific the water is said to be free from rocks and shoals, and on the Popayago coast the shore is so bold that a frigate may anchor within a few yards of the beach. The river from the lake to St. Juan is not navigable.”

The distance from St. Juan river to the Pacific is about two hundred and twenty geographical miles. There is no doubt a sufficiency of water in the Nicaragua lake for vessels of any burden.

History gives no record of the King of Musquito, unless he be the chief of an Indian tribe under the powerful cacique Nicaragua; but a little black boy

was taken from the mountains of Central America, not long ago, sent to Jamaica to be educated under the direction of Lord Grey, and afterwards made King of a portion of the territory belonging to the Republic of Nicaragua. Soon after this proceeding, six hundred black troops were sent from Jamaica to the town of St. Juan Nicaragua, that the King of Musquito might be sustained in the territory that his protectors, the English, had assigned to him, in return for which English enterprise, the town of St. Juan is converted into Grey town. Through this united province Lord Palmerston coolly says to the Nicaraguans: "You must respect the territory under our protectorate," and the minister at Grey town says to the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua: "If you do not respect the rights of our Mosquito King, our home Government will '*chastise*' you by sending here more black troops from Jamaica under Lord Grey." Obviously so, and the *next* time Lord Grey will claim the whole Republic of Nicaragua in return for his repeated services. It will be perceived that, in this position of affairs, the Blacks will be fighting against the Indians and the natives in Central America, the Indians will be fighting the Whites in Yucatan,* and Soulouque, the black Em-

* A New Orleans paper of the 26th of October says: "By the kindness of a commercial house here we give the following extract of a letter, received here, and dated Campeachy, Oct. 9th: Our triumphs over the Indians are so frequent, and their attacks against our entrenchments so weak, that it is very apparent that their munitions of war are giving out. We have just been advised of the capture of a small *English* vessel with an agent of Pat, the Indian leader, on board; also 6099 lbs. of powder and lead. This vessel was carried to Bacalar, but it is expected the English Government will claim the whole.

peror, will continue the destruction of the colored in Hayti; while at the same time floods of recaptured Africans, and Africans in the *transports* of England will be pouring into the West Indies.

Having now before our minds a rapidly drawn sketch of the geographical and present political position of these interesting, because hitherto unfortunate countries, we are prepared to look further and to consider whither their destiny is tending. Brought into their present state of anarchy and confusion in a great measure through the systematic influence of a powerful Government, exerted year after year with a consistency and a constancy worthy of a better cause, it may interest us to inquire why the affairs of remote and comparatively unimportant countries should appear to it so considerable as to claim such continued and unremitted regard. The policy pursued by England with regard to the West Indies has been, as we have said, unswervingly consistent, and being so, blind must he be who cannot learn, from an attentive consideration of it, her fixed intentions. And as it is within our power, it may be for our advantage to see that the fulfilment of those intentions interfere not at all with our interests. The proximity of these countries to our continent, as well as the importance evidently attached to them by England, should prevent us from being careless or inactive spectators, until it be too late. We cannot but perceive, notwithstanding her professions, the wretched state in which England retains her African subjects. As Christians then let us not neglect

to consider the probable moral condition of Cuba and Hayti should her designs prove successful.

In considering the colonial policy of England we shall find it necessary to divest ourselves of all preconceived opinions, founded upon her own pretensions to philanthropy and benevolence, and look only at what she has done, what she is doing, and upon the inevitable tendency of these acts. We shall find, too, convincing proof of the obliquity of England's course, in the opportunities that will occur to compare it with the honest and straight forward one of France. Differing principles must and ever will lead to different courses of action.

We have already seen Soulouque assuming the throne of an empire, receiving the congratulations of the authorities of Jamaica, and meditating plans yet more extensive, suggested by English emissaries—plans which it will be impossible for him to carry into execution without the assistance of England. But that assistance is undoubtedly pledged—indeed, when we glance at Cuba, already on the eve of an *indiscriminate* emancipation, with no security from continued civil war but in joining itself to the kingdom of Soulouque—at the King of Mosquito entirely subject to the British Government—at the flocks of recaptured Africans, and Africans imported in English transports, trained to war and to implicit obedience to the Government to whom they are so deeply indebted—it must be apparent that the whole of Africa, or at least as much of it as is requisite, will be used to es-

tablish a black Empire in the hemisphere of Republics. But the same assistance which has been so freely given to erect this monarchy will be needed to sustain it.

The Emperor of the Antilles then must ever remain under *British protection*, and protection is no idle word, implying, as it does, subjection.

Let us look at England possessing either directly or indirectly a hold in the Republic of Nicaragua.

Fort Bacalar in Yucatan, Nassau and Havana commanding both north and south channels of the Gulf of Mexico. Hayti alone capable of supporting fifteen millions of inhabitants, and then consider whether she will be likely to use lightly the advantages obtained by the unceasing labor of so many years. Holding Cape and Bay Samana, and St. Nicholas Mole, she may command the channels east and west of Hayti, and levy taxes on the commerce of other nations using those passages. In short, it is not easy to estimate the power she may acquire under her volunteer protectorate.

In the mean time, what progress in civilization will the subjects of this Black Empire be allowed to make? Obviously none. They must be trained to war, and to render them more effective, they must be kept in ignorance; or at best be so falsely instructed as to make them as savage as blood hounds. They must be imbued with such prejudices as shall render it impossible for them to discover their true friends; and through their lives of misery and degradation they must continue to fight for the promotion of the power and the wealth of a

Government which, notwithstanding its protestations to the contrary, will be holding their race in the worst form of bondage—the slavery of the mind.

Republican France in 1789 declared all men free and equal, and her determination so to consider them. With her republican government fell these principles of freedom, but again, with more energy, in 1848 she freed herself from her kings and did more for the cause of liberty in one day than England has ever done. She has liberated and called the African race to brotherhood. She has proclaimed Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality to all. She has rooted out slavery from its foundation, and invited the black man to take his seat in the Assembly, not as a colonist, but as a citizen of France, that he may defend his national rights. There, he is neither sacrificed to the cupidity of ambition, nor imbued with prejudices against other nations, but is placed on the same footing with the rest, and feels that he is a Frenchman and a French citizen.

The Americans long since emancipated their slaves in all the Northern States. Schools are everywhere provided for the Africans, and they have every advantage afforded them to obtain education, that they may rise from the abject state in which slavery had placed them. In the South, emancipation is not yet seen in its true light, and some abolitionists, exercising more zeal than knowledge or discretion, have retarded instead of advancing the cause. The sad state of Hayti, after having been independent for fifty years, is also

a stumbling block in its way. Yet we find more true philanthropy in the measures adopted by the people of the South than in any of those taken by the British Government, for they have established and supported the Republic of Liberia in Africa, on a continent where no question can arise concerning the rights of the Africans, and by a monthly packet from Baltimore afford facilities for return to those who appreciate and enjoy a native land. This Republic has already made much progress, and is on friendly relations with European powers, while Hayti under British influence is descending into barbarism.

If Hayti then is really unable for the time to defend and carry out principles of justice, liberality, and benevolence, and must claim foreign protection, it would seem as if it were wisdom in her to trust a nation who has ever proved itself friendly to her by *deeds*, rather than one who has developed her good will, as yet, only in words, and whose monopolizing selfishness is so apparent that it cannot but be perceived.

Can Hayti have forgotten that on the sad and bloody day of the massacre at Port au Prince, her sons claimed protection, in their hour of extremity, from the English Consul,—in vain! while at the hands not only of the French Consul, but from French and American merchants they received all possible aid.

What difference has the Haytien (chief, peasant, trader or sojourner in the land) to expect in the treatment of the British Government, when that Government has never in the slightest degree reprobated the

conduct of its consul during the dismal scenes of April, 1848.

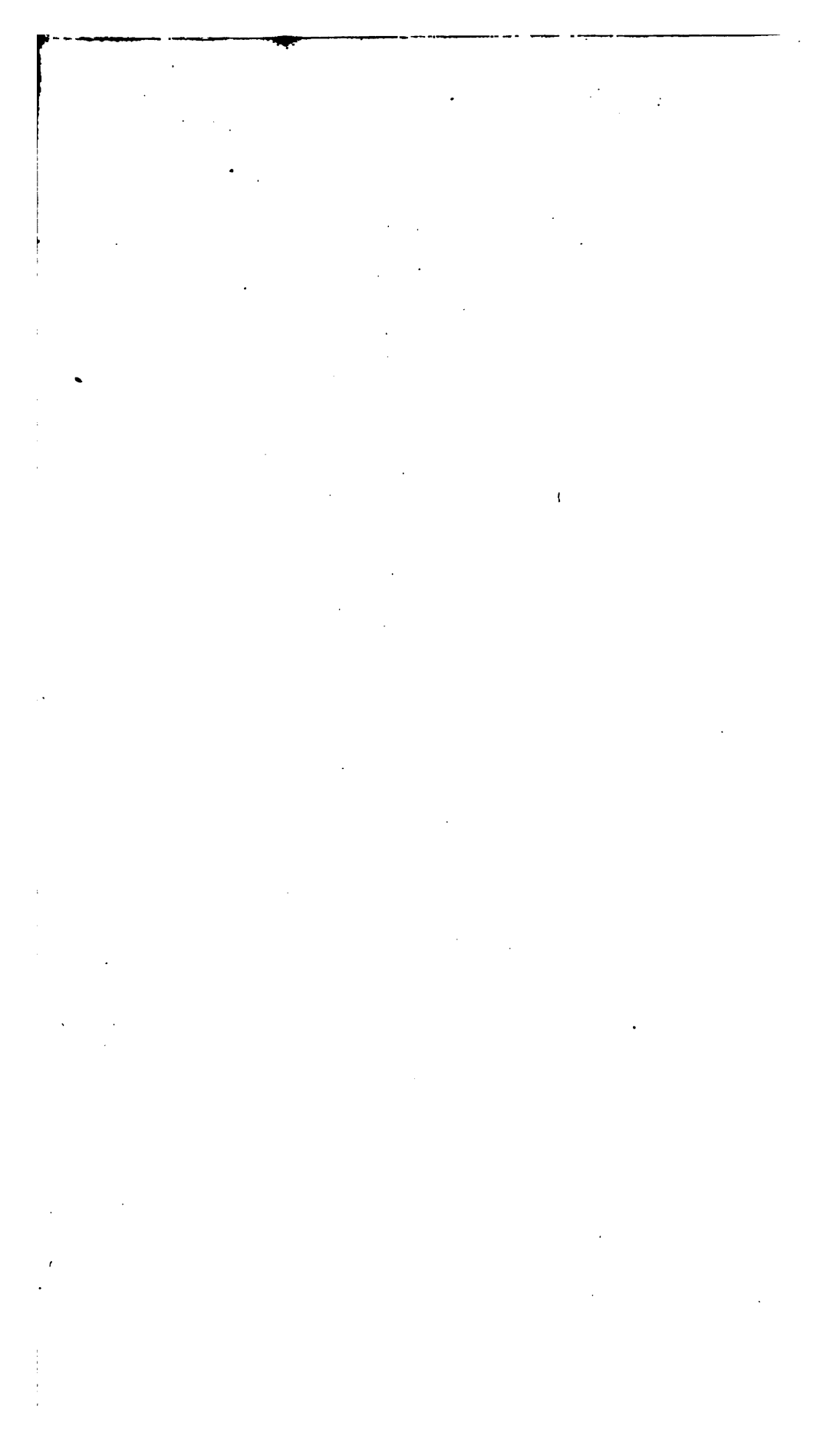
A consideration of matters connected with the wrongs which have been heaped upon the unenlightened people of the West Indies is already widely entertained in this country.

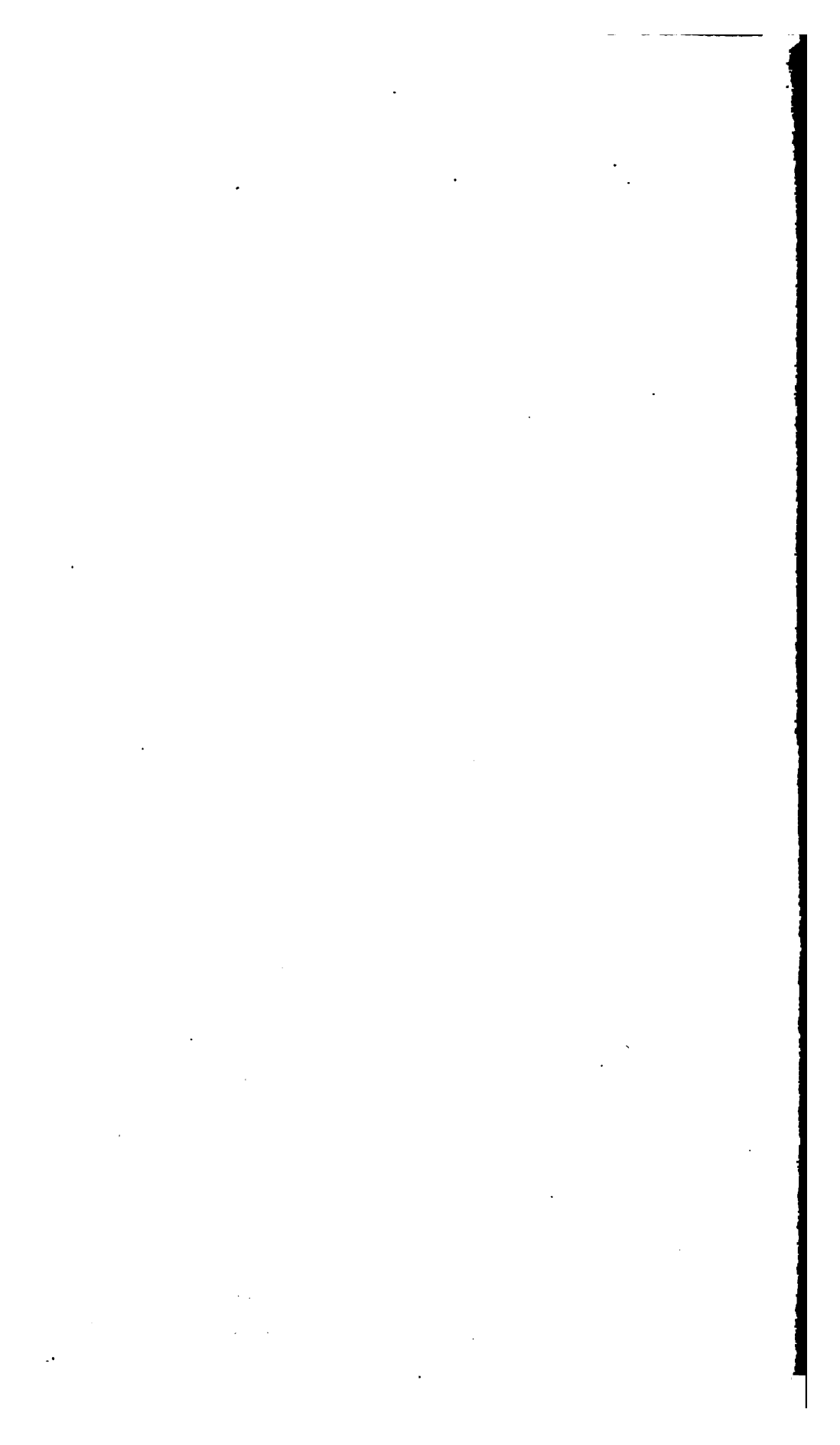
In regard to the position which it becomes the United States to assume, under the circumstances which exist, we cannot perhaps better express ourselves than by adopting the language of a writer in the Boston Journal, who, in relation to the nefarious course pursued by the British Government affecting the West India Islands, says :

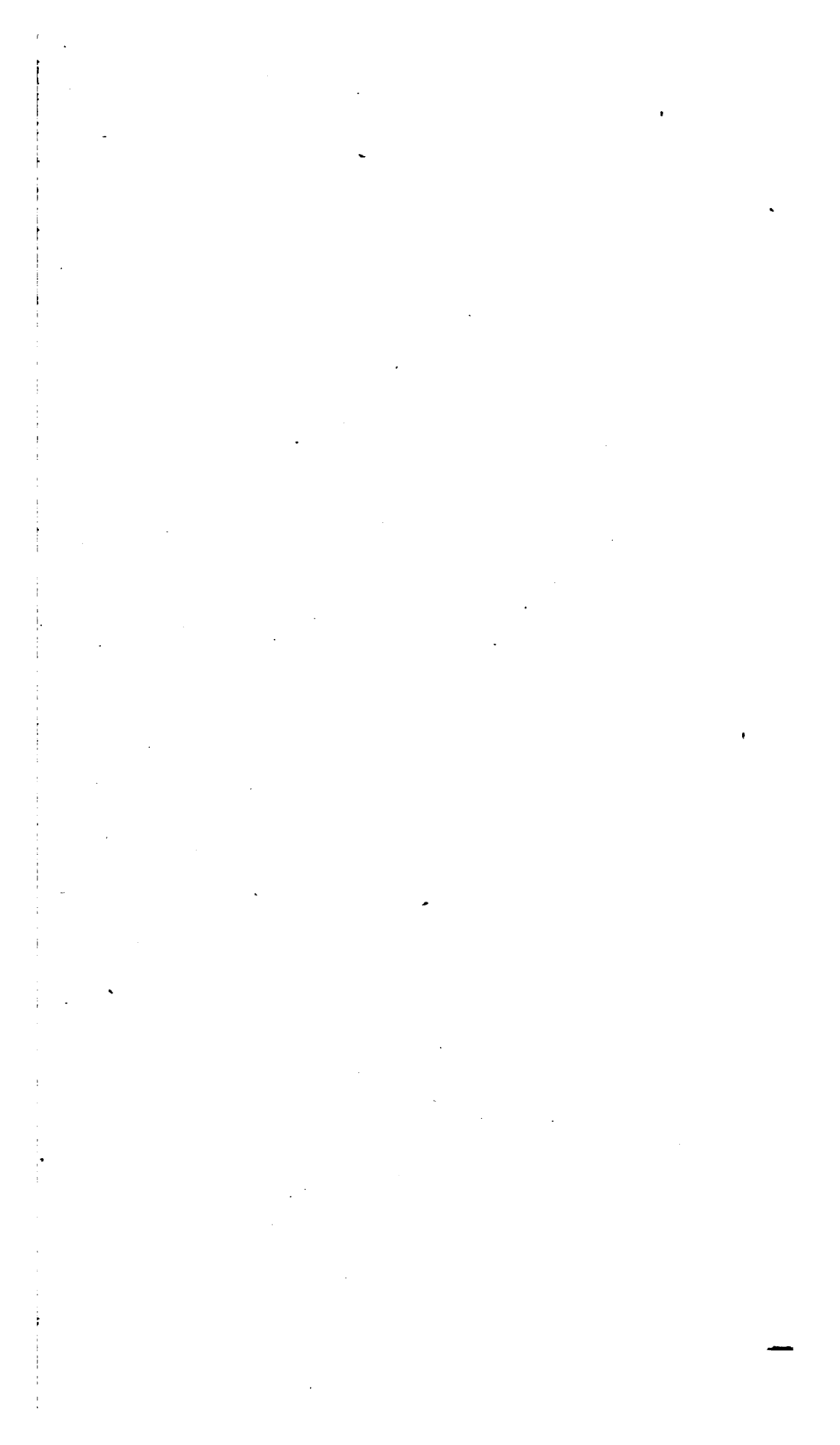
“ It is incumbent upon us to scatter the web which England has been weaving with so much care and cunning, and it ought to be done *irrespective of considerations connected with trade or territory*. Our country has more to thank God for than any other ; it owes something to his people who sit in darkness, (never deeper than now) upon the borders of her prosperous shores. The system which is now weighing down the African in the West Indies is more disgraceful, and if possible, more inhuman than that which would condemn him to perpetual slavery.”

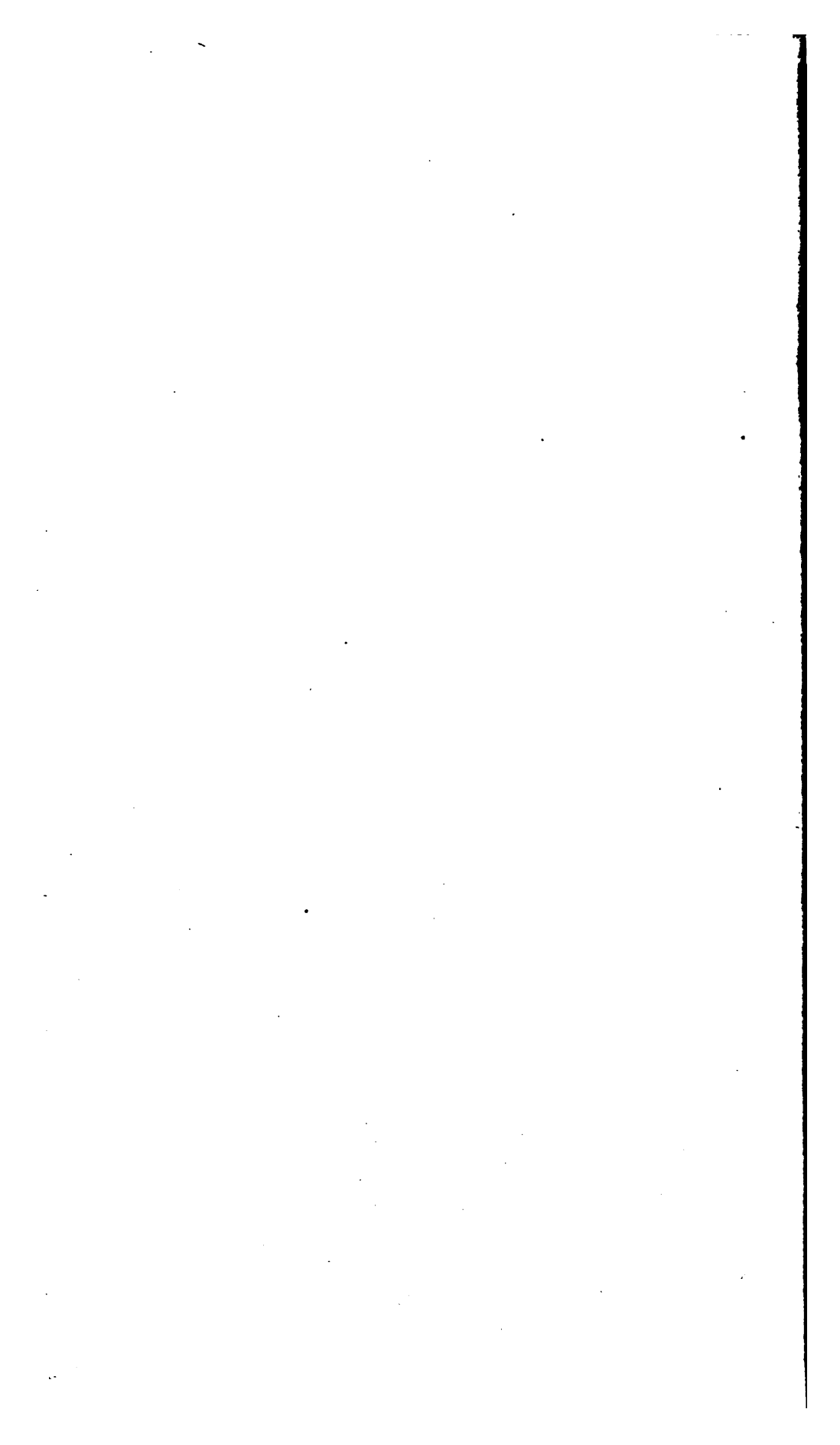
The same writer, after descanting upon the fact that “ during the reign of Christophe the British were employed in exciting a horde of negroes to harass and devour each other,” says in conclusion, alluding to a particular case of transcendent enormity, in which Sir James Lucas Yeo acted as the blood-hound of the

black chief: "This atrocious act (of a powerful and *exemplary* nation) confounded the dim notions which these unenlightened Islanders had instinctively imbibed in relation to humanity. Its influence for evil was potent *then*; it is powerful amongst the same race *now*, (after a lapse of forty years,) and it will continue to be felt in the world long after the British Empire shall have crumbled into dust, and the very name of England is forgotten."











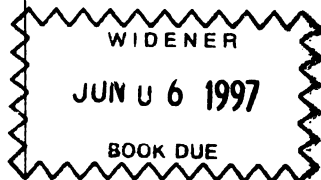
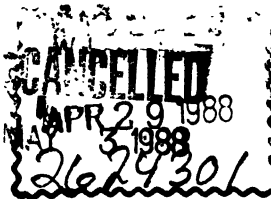
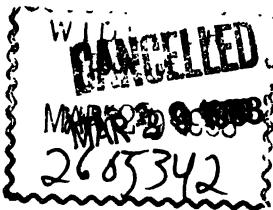


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